

Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA), LA Ecosystem Restoration Study



- **Status:**
Feasibility Study is ongoing.
- **Sponsor:**
State of Louisiana, Dept. of Natural Resources
- **FY 06 Budget:** \$15,000,000
- **FY06 Funds Required:**
\$15,000,000
- **Last Event/Date:**
Chief of Engineer's report and Partnering Agreement signed on 31 Jan 05
- **Next Event/Date:**
Public Meetings for individual studies



Project Fact Sheet

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District, CEMVN-PM-W
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Date: March , 2005

Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Ecosystem Restoration, LA (General Investigations): Ecosystem Restoration Study

STUDY AUTHORITY: Senate Resolution 19 Apr 67 and House Resolution 19 Oct 67.

STUDY SPONSOR: The State of Louisiana, Department of Natural Resources.

STUDY LOCATION: The study area is Louisiana's coastal area from Mississippi to Texas. Louisiana parishes in the study area include Ascension, Assumption, Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, and Vermilion.

STUDY PURPOSE: The purpose of the study is to identify and explore ecosystem restoration plans to restore and protect coastal Louisiana.

STUDY FEATURES: Study features include barrier island restoration, marsh creation, and river diversion.

STUDY COSTS: The LCA study is to progress over a 10-year period at an estimated cost of \$174 million (\$87,000,000 Federal/\$87,000,000 non-Federal).

STUDY SCHEDULE: Funds are being used to initiate final feasibility level NEPA and decision documents for Barataria Barrier Shoreline Restoration, a diversion at Hope Canal, a long-term hydrodynamic study of the Mississippi River, the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet Environmental Restoration, a diversion at Myrtle Grove, modifications to Caernarvon and Davis Pond projects, two long-term studies (Acadiana Bays Estuarine Restoration and Chenier Plain Freshwater and Sediment Management and Allocation Reassessment), a beneficial use of dredged material plan, and one or more demonstration projects. Effort will also be directed toward the development of additional management plans for other projects identified in the LCA Plan.

STUDY BACKGROUND: As a result of the natural coastal processes and human activity, coastal Louisiana has lost over 1,200,000 acres of land since the 1930s. As recently as the 1970s, the loss rate for Louisiana's coastal wetlands was as high as 25, 200 acres per year. The current rate of loss is about 16,000 acres per year. Without action, it is estimated that coastal Louisiana will lose an additional 328,000 acres by the year 2050.

- The various components of the LCA Ecosystem Restoration study will develop alternative plans to restore and/or protect the natural and human environment to create a sustainable ecosystem within the context of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem, including coastal Louisiana.
- The LCA Ecosystem Restoration Near-Term Plan: These studies are being conducted under the LCA Authorization of 1967. The LCA Ecosystem Restoration Study is based on the Coast 2050 Plan, which contains long-range, large-scale ecosystem restoration strategies to preserve and protect coastal Louisiana. The LCA Ecosystem Restoration Study supports the Louisiana Coastal Area – Ecosystem Restoration, Louisiana reconnaissance report approved May 1999, and proposes long-range, large-scale ecosystem restoration strategies to restore and protect coastal Louisiana. The LCA Ecosystem Restoration Study was initiated in FY02. A Near-Term Restoration Plan has been identified to address critical ecosystem needs that require immediate attention and to improve the scientific and technology needed to effectively provide for the protection and restoration of coastal ecosystems. The Near-Term Plan to restore the Coastal Louisiana ecosystem will guide the restoration effort for the next ten or so years. The studies and projects will be developed through a public involvement process and working closely with other Federal Agencies and the State of Louisiana.

ISSUES: Effective implementation of the LCA Ecosystem Restoration Plan within the identified 10-year near-term timeframe is contingent on Congressional authorization of the plan in FY 05. FY06 budgeted funds of \$15,000,000 will be used to continue feasibility.

General Investigations

Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Ecosystem Restoration, LA Study

Status:

- The study area is Louisiana's (LA) coastal area from Mississippi to Texas. Twenty LA parishes are included in the study area. The study is evaluating the LA coastal area and developing a plan of implementation for restoration projects across the coast.
- In FY 2006, budgeted funds will be used to complete feasibility on (1) Barataria Basin barrier shoreline restoration; conduct feasibility studies on a (2) small diversion at Hope Canal, (3) hydrodynamic study of the Mississippi River, (4) Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet environmental restoration, (5) medium diversion at Myrtle Grove, and (6) possible modifications to the Caernarvon and Davis Pond projects; initiate long-term studies of (7) Acadiana Bays Estuarine Restoration, and (8) Chenier Plain Freshwater and Sediment Management and Allocation Reassessment; explore options for (9) the beneficial use of dredged material; and (10) plan one or more demonstration projects.
- The feasibility cost sharing agreement was executed in February 2000. The LCA Ecosystem Restoration Plan was forwarded to HQUSACE and a Chief of Engineers report was signed on 31 Jan 05.
- FY06 budget is \$15 million, which is the study capability.

Cost:

Total Study Cost	\$174M
Federal Cost	\$87M
Non-Federal Cost	\$87M

Issues: Effective implementation of the LCA Ecosystem Restoration Plan within the identified 10-year near-term timeframe is contingent on Congressional authorization of the plan in FY 05. This project has strong support of the sponsor, LA Department of Natural Resources, the LA Congressional delegation, and many scientists, engineers and academia.